

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41 (canceled).

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ (11) A load-bearing device for a ~~transport system, in particular for a~~ shelf-stacking device (1), with a telescopic table (15) displaceable in a plane parallel with a support surface (6) for accommodating at least one storage aid (4), ~~e.g. container, box, etc.,~~ with a bottom table (16) and with an intermediate table (17) comprising a substantially flat I-beam and a top table (18) displaceable relative thereto and relative to one another in first, second, third and fourth linear guide systems ~~(42, 43, 44, 45)~~ disposed ~~preferably~~ symmetrically by reference to a mid-plane (46), and with a drive system (66) between the bottom table (16) and intermediate table (17) and a transmission system (68) for displacing the top table (18) depending on the relative movement between the bottom table (16) and the intermediate table (17),

and with the first and second linear guide systems ~~(42, 43, 44, 45)~~ between the intermediate table ~~(17)~~ and the bottom table ~~(16)~~ and the third and fourth linear guide systems between the intermediate table ~~(17)~~ and the top table ~~(18)~~ disposed in parallel first and second guide planes ~~(47, 48)~~ spaced apart from one another and extending parallel with a bearing surface ~~(26)~~ of the top table ~~(18)~~, and with at least one other guide system ~~(79, 80)~~ ~~form~~ which forms a third guide plane ~~(78)~~ oriented perpendicular thereto and parallel with a displacement direction of the top table ~~(18)~~, and the transmission system ~~(68)~~ ~~incorporating~~ comprises a transmission ~~means~~ ~~(70)~~ mechanism and is disposed in a transmission plane ~~(76)~~ extending at an angle ~~(77)~~ with respect to a top face ~~(62)~~ of the top table ~~(18)~~ and parallel with the displacement direction, wherein strip-shaped guide projections ~~(53)~~ forming the parallel first and second guide planes ~~(47, 48)~~ extending across an entire length ~~(30)~~ of the intermediate table ~~(17)~~ ~~forma~~ form a top band flange incorporating the third and fourth linear guide systems ~~(42, 43)~~ between the intermediate table ~~(17)~~ and the top table ~~(18)~~ and a bottom ~~band flange~~ incorporating the first and second linear guide systems ~~(44, 45)~~ between the intermediate table ~~(17)~~ and the bottom table ~~(16)~~.

Claim 43 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-

bearing device according to claim 42, wherein at least one of the bottom table, ~~(16) and/or~~ the intermediate table, ~~(17) and/or~~ and the top table ~~(18)~~ is ~~or are~~ preferably made from fiber and/or fabric reinforced plastic.

Claim 44 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein at least one of the bottom table, ~~(16) and/or~~ the intermediate table, ~~(17) and/or~~ and the top table ~~(18)~~ is ~~or are~~ made from ~~light metal alloys, in particular from~~ magnesium alloy.

Claim 45 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein at least one of the intermediate table ~~(17) and/or~~ and the top table ~~(18)~~ is a carbon fiber reinforced composite component.

Claim 46 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein at least one of the intermediate table ~~(17) and/or~~ and the top table ~~(18)~~ is a Kevlar fiber reinforced composite component.

Claim 47 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-

bearing device according to claim 42, wherein the ~~composite material of the intermediate table (17) and/or the top table (18)~~ is made from ~~plastic, in particular from a polyester resins resin composite material~~.

Claim 48 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 47, wherein reinforcing elements ~~of lightweight metal, steel, etc.,~~ are provided in the polyester resin composite material for the intermediate table (17) and/or the top table (18).

Claim 49 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth linear guide systems ~~(42, 43, 44, 45, 79, 80)~~ are and the at least one other guide system are provided in the form of roller guides.

Claim 50 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth linear guide systems ~~(42, 43, 44, 45, 79, 80)~~ are and the at least one other guide system are provided in the form of anti-friction bearing guides.

Claim 51 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth linear guide systems ~~(42, 43, 44, 45, 79, 80)~~ ~~are~~ and the at least one other guide system are provided with friction-reducing and wear-resistant guide elements ~~(55)~~ forming strip-shaped guide projections ~~(53)~~ between groove-shaped recesses ~~(54)~~.

Claim 52 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 51, wherein ~~the~~ each guide element ~~(55) is provided in the form of~~ comprises a U-shaped anti-friction section ~~(56), in particular~~ made from a plastic with good anti-friction properties.

Claim 53 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 51, wherein a friction-reducing, wear-resistant coating ~~(58), in particular~~ made from plastic with good anti-friction properties, is provided on an external surface of the guide elements ~~(55)~~.

Claim 54 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein U-shaped anti-friction sections ~~(56)~~ are secured to the strip-shaped guide projections ~~(53)~~ by a positive and/or frictional clamping action.

Claim 55 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 51, wherein the guide elements ~~(55)~~ on the strip-shaped guide projections ~~(53)~~ are disposed in the longitudinal direction extending on the intermediate table ~~(17)~~ and/or top table ~~(18)~~ and/or bottom table ~~(16)~~ running across an entire length ~~(30)~~ and co-operate with the groove-shaped recesses ~~(54)~~ on the bottom table ~~(16)~~ and/or intermediate table ~~(17)~~ and/or on the top table ~~(18)~~.

Claim 56 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein the strip-shaped guide projections ~~(53)~~ forming the parallel first and second guide planes ~~(47, 48)~~ are disposed on the ~~middle~~ intermediate table, ~~preferably~~ symmetrically by reference to a mid-plane ~~(46)~~.

Claim 57 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein a ~~band~~ flange width

(64) of the top ~~band~~ flange is bigger than a ~~band~~ flange width  
(65) of the bottom ~~band~~ flange.

Claim 58 (canceled).

Claim 59 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein groove-shaped recesses (54) are provided in the top face and ~~the~~ a bottom face of the intermediate table (17) extending in the direction of longitudinal extension to form the at least one other guide ~~systems (79, 80)~~ system providing lateral guidance in the ~~other~~ third guide plane (78), which ~~preferably~~ extends perpendicular to the parallel first and second guide planes ~~(47, 48)~~ and parallel with the displacement direction.

Claim 60 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 59, wherein the groove-shaped recesses (54) co-operate with the strip-shaped guide projections (53) disposed on the top table (18) and bottom table (16).

Claim 61 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 51, wherein the strip-shaped

guide projections (53) are provided with the guide elements (55).

Claim 62 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42 51, wherein U-shaped complementary sections (57) are disposed in a positive or frictional connection in the groove-shaped recesses (54) enclosing the guide elements (55), which are preferably made from coated metal or plastic with good anti-friction properties or coated plastic.

Claim 63 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein an angle (77) between the transmission plane (76) and the top face (62) of the top table (18) is between 10° and 60°.

Claim 64 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42, wherein first and second locking mechanisms (86) are disposed at opposite end regions (84, 85) of the top table (18) ~~preferably~~ on first and second side walls (59), ~~and have~~ respectively, each locking mechanism having a respective locking means device which can be displaced relative to the top face (62) of the top table (18) between a position



more or less flush with it and a position projecting beyond it.

Claim 65 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 64, wherein ~~the~~ each locking ~~means device~~ is provided in the form of a double lever element ~~(31)~~ with a hook-shaped lock projection ~~(97)~~ on the respective side wall ~~(59)~~ of the top table ~~(18)~~ mounted so as to be pivotable about a pivot axis ~~(88)~~.

Claim 66 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 65, wherein ~~the~~ each locking ~~means device~~ is displaceably connected to a single lever element ~~(89)~~ in a slide block system ~~(96)~~ on the respective side wall ~~(59)~~ which is pivotable about a pivot axis ~~(87)~~.

Claim 67 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim ~~42~~ 66, wherein the single lever element ~~(89)~~ is pivoted on an operating region ~~(94)~~ projecting above the top face ~~(62)~~ of the top table ~~(18)~~ ~~by means of~~ via a load force, which causes the double lever element ~~(91)~~ to pivot into a position in which the lock projection ~~(97)~~ projects above the top face ~~(62)~~ of the top table ~~(18)~~.

Claim 68 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42 67, wherein the single lever element (89) is positioned in a non-operating position ~~by means of~~ via a spring system (92), ~~preferably comprising~~ a leaf spring, in which the operating region (94) projects above the top face (62) of the top table (18) positioned against a stop ~~means~~ (93) device.

Claim 69 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42 64, wherein ~~the~~ each locking ~~means device~~ is designed to be displaceable between ~~the~~ a non-operating position and an operating position in which it projects above the top face (62) of the top table (18).

Claim 70 (currently amended): ~~Load-bearing means~~ The load-bearing device according to claim 42 64, wherein a projection distance, e. g. a hook height (98), of a respective catch pawl (90) forming ~~the~~ each locking ~~means device~~ is ~~preferably~~ bigger than or the same as a vertical distance (100) between support surfaces (101) of ~~the~~ endless conveyors (31, 32) and the bearing surface (26) of the top table (18).